

PATENT
Serial No. 09/632,154

REMARKS

Claims 4-8 and 15-25 are pending in this application. Applicant has amended Claim 8. Applicant requests consideration of this application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claim 8 has been amended to overcome the Examiner's objection.

Claims 4-8 and 15-25 stand rejected as being obvious over Shiio in view of Farmer et al. (the "Farmer Patent"). The Farmer Patent issued on May 8, 2001, based on an application filed on August 2, 1996.

The present application is a continuation of application serial number 08/747,420, which was filed on November 12, 1996 (now U.S. Patent No. 6,219,045 B1), which claims the benefit of provision application number 60/020,296, which was filed on November 13, 1995. As such, the Farmer Patent is not prior art to the present application and cannot be used to reject the pending claims. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection, which is based on the Farmer Patent, should be withdrawn.

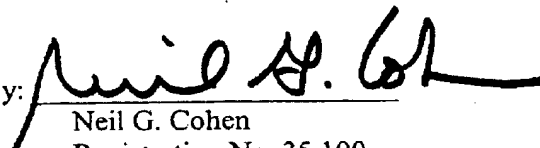
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For the reasons set forth above, all of the pending claims are patentable over the references of record and are now in condition for allowance. An early allowance of the all claims is earnestly solicited.

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Respectfully submitted,

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